



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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December 16, 2003

### **SANGER, TEXAS, MAN SENTENCED FOR INTERSTATE TRAVEL TO ENGAGE IN SEX WITH A MINOR**

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Lester Ray Nichols**, 62, Sanger, Texas, was sentenced on December 15, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Monti L. Belot to **ten years in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release, and order to forfeit a Jeep Wrangler, camcorder, digital camera, web cam, and laptop computer.**

Melgren said that Nichols entered a guilty plea on September 30, 2003, to one count of **interstate travel to engage in sex with a girl he believed to be thirteen years old.**

Melgren said that Nichols admitted at his plea that on June 19, 2003, he contacted “Erika” on the internet whom he believed to be a thirteen year old girl living in Wichita, Kansas.

Nichols had actually contacted a detective with the Exploited and Missing Child Unit of the Wichita Police Department. Nichols further admitted that over the next few weeks he continued to contact Erika over the internet and discussed traveling to Wichita to engage in a sexual relationship with Erika. Nichols also admitted that on July 16, 2003, he traveled from his residence in Sanger, Texas, to Wichita, Kansas, where he intended to meet Erika and engage in a sexual relationship. Nichols was arrested on July 16, 2003, by the Exploited and Missing Child Unit when he arrived in Wichita. Nichols had in his possession, at the time of his arrest, a lap top computer, web cam, digital camera and camcorder.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Exploited and Missing Child Unit of the Wichita Police Department and the FBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger in this prosecution.